

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Woodruff Coop Project

Proposal Number: 1435

DWR Region: Northern Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Rich

Project Manager: Ron Greer

PM Phone: 0

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/1/2009

Project Location: Woodruff, Utah, Rich County, Woodruff Cooperative WMA

Project Description: A pasture aerator would reduce up to approximately 250 acres of dense stands of mature and old Wyoming big sagebrush, in an area located east of Woodruff Utah.

Description of Problem/Need: A pasture aerator would reduce up to approximately 400 acres of dense stands of mature and old Wyoming big sagebrush, in an area located east of Woodruff Utah. This would restore and uneven age class to the area, thin the existing sage stands and increase understory and diversity. This would increase potential habitat for sage grouse, mule deer and pronghorn.

Objectives: The goals are to: 1) break up the continuity of the sagebrush to decrease fast moving wildland fire; 2) create an uneven aged, varied size class stand of sagebrush to increase edge effect; and 3) increase understory production.

These goals would: 1) improve the sagebrush ecosystem by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire; 2) improve wildlife habitat for sage grouse and big game; and 3) reduce the competition for resources and promote increased production of herbaceous species.

The thinning treatment would produce mosaic patterns thus creating a natural appearance. A seeding treatment would also take place, yet the exact seed mixture to be used is not known at the current time. The seed mixture that would be used would completely depend on availability and expenditures. Legumes would be a preferred to be added into the mixture to increase the protein available for sage grouse and pronghorn during the spring and summer months.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: This project will address the needs of conservation of the Tier II and Tier III species noted in the WAP identified in section 5.1, and also address the need for protection and restoration of the habitat types listed in section 7.1 of the WAP. This project would also address the WMA maintenance plan and the Sage Grouse Management plan for Rich County CRM, as well as the BLM RMP for Rich County.

Potential Risks: Possible seeding failure due to weather variabilities. Risk of trespass cattle.

Proposed Methods: Using a Lawson pasture aerator, the sage will be thinned. Then using a Rangeland drill, the treated areas will be drilled using a wildlife seed mix to increase understory diversity and increase forb density.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Proposals\NR\1435.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 1/14/2009

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: BLM will monitor vegetation response, UDWR will monitor wildlife activities on the treatment area and on the WMA

Grazing Management: Grazing will be suspended for 2 years

SPECIES BENEFITING

Greater Sage-grouse

Pronghorn

Mule Deer

Shrubsteppe Birds

Raptors

Monday, March 16, 2009 10:55:39 AM

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	246
Total	246

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM	\$17,500.00		\$0.00
BLM ARRA	\$19,875.00	3/3/2009	\$19,875.00
Totals	\$37,375.00		\$19,875.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Personal Services	Aerate and drill 250 acres	\$1,875.00	\$0.00
Equipment Rental	tractor rental	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	fuel, truck mileage, transport costs	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Archaeological Survey	\$50 per acre, 250 acres	\$0.00	\$12,500.00
NEPA	document preparation	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Seed (GBRC)	seed for 250 acres at \$60/acre	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$19,875.00	\$17,500.00

Project Map:

